

Message Text

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70

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-02 INR-09 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-14

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-12 PRS-01 SAL-01 OMB-01

OIC-04 RSR-01 /181 W

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R 161925 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9771

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, UK

SUBJECT: MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND
VEGETABLES

REF: STATE 46171

1. ON MARCH 15 WE RAISED THE EC COMMISSION' S PROPOSAL
FOR A MINIMUM IMPORT PRICE SYSTEM ON PROCESSED FRUITS
AND VEGETABLES WITH EDWARD J. G. SMITH, UNDER SECRETARY
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AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. WE GAVE SMITH AN ORAL SUMMARY OF THE POINTS IN THE REFTEL, AND SAID THAT WE HOPED THE UK WOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF OUR VIEWS WHEN IT DEVELOPS ITS OWN POSITION ON THIS PROPOSAL. WE GAVE SMITH AN INFORMAL VERSION OF THE TEXT OF PARAS 2-4 OF THE REFTEL, AND SAID THAT OUR MISSION IN BRUSSELS WAS DELIVERING A FORMAL NOTE CONTAINING THE SAME POINTS TO THE COMMISSION.

2. SMITH SAID THAT BRITISH INTERESTS IN THIS MATTER ARE CONSISTENT WITH US INTERESTS. FIRST OF ALL, THE UK DOES NOT WANT TO SEE PRICE INCREASES ON ANY OF THE PRODUCTS COVERED BY THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL. SECONDLY, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WANTS " TO AVOID ANYTHING THAT WOULD MAKE ARTICLE XXIV:6 OR THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS MORE DIFFICULT." SMITH ASSURED US THAT HMG WOULD KEEP US VIEWS IN MIND. THE UK WAS ONLY ONE OF NINE EC MEMBER STATES, HOWEVER, AND PRODUCER STATES LIKE ITALY COULD BE EXPECTED TO VIEW THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT. IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SAY AT THIS STAGE WHAT THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF THIS MATTER WOULD BE.

3. ON MARCH 16 WE ALSO PRESENTED US VIEWS ON THE COMMISSION PROPOSAL TO MARTIN MORLAND, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE.

ANNENBERG

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
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30 JUN 2005

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Subject: MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES ON PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
TAGS: ETRD, UK, GATT
To: AGR
BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
LUXEMBOURG
PARIS

ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC

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